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The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thanks to the work and leadership of the 108th Congress, our country is on the verge of a historic breakthrough in its commitment to America's seniors and disabled persons. CIGNA applauds your outstanding effort and congratulates you on the Conference Committee's bipartisan agreement.

The Conference Report creates a framework that will help assure the future solvency of Medicare while enhancing quality for beneficiaries by adding prescription drug coverage, preventive care and disease management. Its injection of flexibility in benefit design and cost management techniques is critical if beneficiaries are to access the same high-quality care that millions of Americans now receive through employer-sponsored plans.

In addition, the agreement takes steps to further strengthen the health security of millions of retirees by encouraging employers to continue their provision of retiree health benefits.

The country has called on Congress to modernize Medicare. We extend our congratulations to you once again on reaching agreement on these reforms.

Sincerely,